

**Amendments to the Claims**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of listing of claims in the application:

1.- 8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) An anti-hepatitis virus agent, comprising components (A) and (B):

(A) a nucleotide sequence directing the synthesis of a complementary strand of a hepatitis-virus;

(B) a nucleotide sequence containing at least one regulatory region operably linked to a structural gene encoding a toxin exhibiting a LD<sub>50</sub> for vertebrates of not more than 100 ng/kg body weight;

wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the toxin is positioned in an antisense direction.

10. (New) The anti-hepatitis virus agent of claim 9, wherein component (A) is derived from the 5'- or 3'-untranslated regions of a Hepatitis virus type B, C, D or E.

11. (New) The anti-hepatitis virus agent of claim 10, wherein component (A) is derived from the 3' untranslated region of the HCV-virus.

12. (New) The anti-hepatitis virus agent of claim 1, wherein the regulatory region comprises the Shine-Dalgarno sequence or the internal ribosomal binding site (IRBS) of the genomic RNA of the poliovirus vaccine strain Sabin 2.

13. (New) The anti-hepatitis virus agent of claim 1, wherein the toxin is selected from the group comprising diphtheria exotoxin, diphtheria exotoxin A-subunit, Shigella toxin, Disenteria toxin.

14. (New) The anti-hepatitis virus agent of claim 1, which comprises a DNA or a RNA vector.

15. (New) A method for treating hepatitis, comprising:  
administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an anti-hepatitis virus agent comprising components (A) and (B):

(A) a nucleotide sequence directing the synthesis of a complementary strand of a hepatitis-virus;

(B) a nucleotide sequence containing at least one regulatory region operably

linked to a structural gene encoding a toxin exhibiting a LD<sub>50</sub> for vertebrates of not more than 100 ng/kg body weight;

wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the toxin is positioned in an antisense direction.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said hepatitis is caused by hepatitis virus type B, C, D or E.